



# SOIL AND WATER *Resources*



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## Conserving Soil and Water For Future Generations - The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax

On Nov. 8, 2016, Missouri citizens will have the opportunity to reapprove the Parks, Soils and Water Sales tax, which is a statewide one-tenth of one percent sales tax divided to fund the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program and Missouri State Parks. Missouri's Soil and Water Conservation Program is nearly completely funded by the tax.

Of Missouri's 44.6 million acres of land, 14.8 million are considered cropland. With almost half of Missouri's cropland soil classified as highly erodible, controlling and minimizing erosion is a significant challenge for Missouri's farmers.

The program provides cost-share programs to farmers and landowners to implement conservation practices aimed at reducing or preventing excessive erosion and to improve water quality. Over the past 30 years, Missouri's Soil and Water Conservation Program has saved more than 177 million tons of soil from erosion.

For more information, visit [dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/history.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/history.htm).

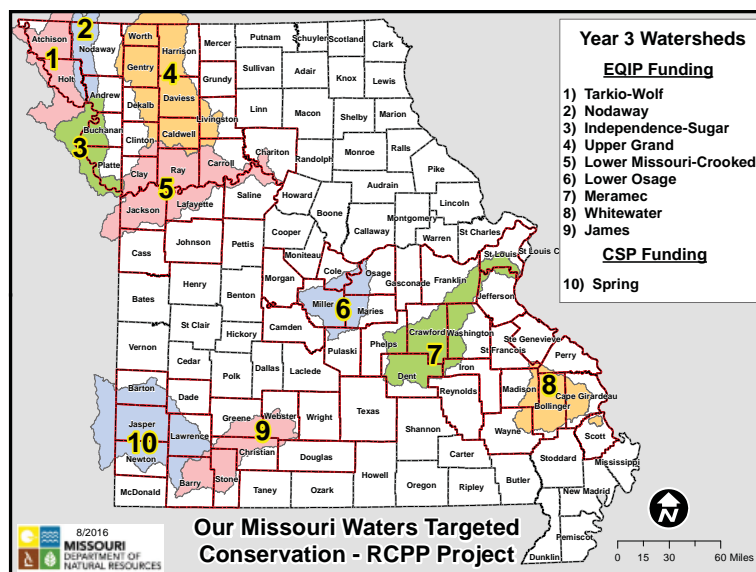


**Riparian forest buffer conservation practice**

## Five Regional Conservation Partnership Program Projects will be Available in Missouri in 2017

Five Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects will be available in fiscal year 2017. The assistance provided through the Our Missouri Waters RCPP enables producers and landowners to install and maintain conservation practices through Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program. These conservation practices will address priority natural resource concerns within the designated watersheds of Our Missouri Waters. The soil and water conservation districts provide program assistance such as conservation practice planning, on-site field inventory and priority ranking for fund distribution.

In addition to offering financial incentives to landowners, the Department, through the 319 Nonpoint Source Program, has a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council for a monitoring partnership as part of a study looking at the effectiveness of current soil and water conservation practices on sediment and nutrient removal from farm field runoff. For this work, edge-of-field water quality monitoring will focus on best management practices that address nutrient and sediment loss reduction strategies such as: vegetative filter strips, grassed waterways, terraces, tillage, grazing rotations, manure management, field borders, subsurface tile, riparian buffer strips, cover crops, and combinations of such practices. Data analysis from this monitoring program will also be compared with the Nutrient Tracking Tool to support best management practices recommendations as well as to document expected reduction/water quality improvement of existing best management practices.



**Watersheds where projects will be available for Our Missouri Waters Targeted Conservation RCPP Projects.**



The Missouri projects and main sponsors with support of the local soil and water conservation districts are:

- Our Missouri Waters - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Northwest Missouri Urban and Rural Farmers United for Conservation - Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Cover Crops for Soil Health and Water Quality - Missouri Department of Agriculture
- Restoring Glades and Woodland Communities for Threatened Species in the Ozarks of Southeast Missouri - Missouri Department of Conservation
- Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Land Enhancement Initiative - Missouri Department of Conservation

### **Missouri Hosts 2016 National Association of State Conservation Agencies Annual Meeting in Branson**

The Soil and Water Conservation Program with the Christian and Stone County Soil and Water Conservation Districts made several presentations at the 2016 National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) annual meeting in Branson. NASCA members include directors and staff that work with SWCDs in their states and some also administer their 319 Nonpoint Source Programs.

The meeting included a visit to see grazing systems, stream protection and livestock exclusion practices on two local farms. Attendees also visited the Table Rock Area Stormwater Planning and Demonstration 319 Nonpoint Source Project on a commercial stormwater management site to see where permeable pavers were installed for water infiltration at a Kimberling City parking lot.

The Table Rock Lake area watershed in Missouri is approximately 278,000 acres within Stone, Barry and Taney counties.



**Stone County landowner Rick Farley and Stone Soil and Water Conservation District employees Melissa White and Kevin Wray discuss the benefits of the grazing system and the drought well Farley installed on his farm.**



**Christian County landowner Tyler Laney (left) discusses the grazing system, stream protection and livestock exclusion practices on his farm. Christian County Soil and Water District board chair Sam Schaumann and staff Tom Calton are in the background.**



**Before: parking lot removal. After: permeable pavers.**



**Gopala Borchelt of Ozarks Water Watch talks about the project and how permeable pavers infiltrate water rather than creating runoff from the parking lot.**



## Harry Bozoian Named Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Longtime state environment and agriculture attorney Harry Bozoian (buh-ZOY-unn), of Columbia, has been named as the new Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. He will replace Director Sara Parker Pauley, who was named by the Conservation Commission as the first female director of the Missouri Department of Conservation.



**Harry Bozoian**

“Harry’s breadth of experience and knowledge of environmental issues will make him an excellent director of the Department of Natural Resources,” Gov. Nixon said. “I know he will capably lead the department in serving the people of Missouri and in ensuring our natural resources are protected for future generations.”

Bozoian previously was a senior policy advisor to the Governor and was the deputy chief of staff for the Governor’s Office. He also has served as the lead official for the State of Missouri on issues concerning the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Prior to his positions with the Governor’s Office, he was Deputy Director for the Missouri Department of Agriculture and served as Acting Director of the department in 2013.

During the historic 2011 flood, Gov. Nixon appointed Bozoian to assist farmers and levee districts in the rehabilitation of their farms and levees. For his work, Bozoian received the Outstanding Service and Assistance Award from the Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association.

In 2012, the Governor appointed Bozoian to lead the Drought Assistance Program through the Soil and Water Conservation Program, which provided vital relief to Missouri’s livestock and crop production industry. From 1993 to 2008, he was an assistant attorney general in the Agriculture and Environment Division for then-Attorney General Nixon.

Bozoian operates and manages a 536-acre row crop and hay farm in Monroe County, as well as an 80-acre farm in Chariton County.

### Dates to Remember

Nov. 4 - National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest deadline

Nov. 28 - Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting

Nov. 28 to 30 - Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Training Conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach

### Spotlight on Soil and Water Conservation Practices:

## Grazing Systems



The steady use of an area by livestock can cause erosion and affect water quality. You can make the best use of soil and water resources by improving the vegetative cover on pastures and developing a planned grazing system.

Fencing is used to rotate livestock through a number of paddocks to create or intensify a grazing system.

There are five grazing system practices. These include:

- Water development (ponds or wells)
- Water distribution (pipeline or watering tanks)
- Fencing
- Lime
- Seed

The benefits of grazing systems include improving or maintaining plant health and diversity, protecting surface and subsurface water quality, reducing soil erosion and maintaining or improving soil health. Grazing systems can improve animal health and reduce feed costs.

The practices apply to pastureland where permanent vegetative cover is established and can be enhanced through the use of a planned grazing system. The system operator must attend an approved grazing school provided by the University of Missouri, in conjunction with NRCS, prior to application with the soil and water conservation district.

For more information about conservation practices and cost-share assistance contact your local soil and water conservation district by visiting [swcd.mo.gov](http://swcd.mo.gov).



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